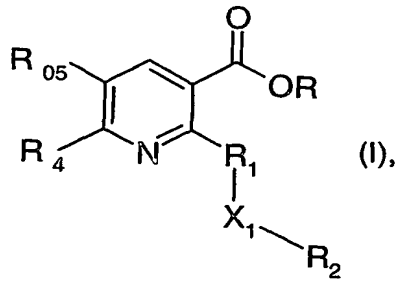
What is claimed is:

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I



(I),

wherein

R is C_1-C_6alkyl;

R_{05} is Hydrogen, C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl or C_1-C_3alkyl-C_1-C_3alkoxy;

R_1 is a C_1-C_6alkylene, C_3-C_6alkenylene or C_3-C_6alkynylene chain which may be substituted one or more times by halogen and/or by R_5, the unsaturated bonds of the chain not being attached directly to the substituent X_1;

R_4 is C_1-C_4haloalkyl;

X_1 is oxygen, -O(CO)-, -(CO)O-, -O(CO)O-, -N(R_6)-O-, -O-NR_{17}-, thio, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, -SO_2NR_7-, -$NR_{18}SO_2$-, -N(SO_2R_{18a})-, -N(R_{18b})C(O)- or -NR_8-;

R_{18a} is C_1-C_6alkyl;

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl, or is a C_1-C_8alkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl or C_3-C_6alkynyl group which may be substituted one or more times by substituents selected from halogen, hydroxy, amino, formyl, nitro, cyano, mercapto, carbamoyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_2-C_6haloalkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, halo-substituted C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6haloalkenyloxy, cyano-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl, oxiranyl (which may in turn be substituted by C_1-C_6alkyl), (3-oxetanyl)oxy (which may in turn be substituted by C_1-C_6alkyl), benzyloxy, benzylthio, benzylsulfinyl, benzylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6alkylamino, di(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, $R_9S(O)_2O$-, $R_{10}N(R_{11})SO_2$-, rhodano, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl and phenylsulfonyl;

it being possible for the phenyl- or benzyl-containing groups to be in turn substituted by one or more C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy or nitro groups, or

R_2 is phenyl which may be substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy or by nitro; or

R_2 is C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy- or C_1-C_6alkyl-substituted C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, 3-oxetanyl or C_1-C_6alkyl-substituted 3-oxetanyl; or

R_2 is a three- to ten-membered, monocyclic or fused bicyclic, ring system which may be aromatic, partially saturated or fully saturated and may contain from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur, and/or may contain the group -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, -C(=NR_{19})-, -(N=O)-, -S(=O)- or -SO_2-, the ring system being attached to the substituent X_1 either directly or by way of a C_1-C_4alkylene, C_2-C_4alkenylene, C_2-C_4alkynylene, -N(R_{12})-C_1-C_4alkylene, -O-C_1-C_4alkylene, -S-C_1-C_4alkylene, -SO-C_1-C_4alkylene or -SO_2-C_1-C_4alkylene group and each ring system containing no more than 2 oxygen atoms and no more than two sulfur atoms, and it being possible for each ring system itself to be substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_2-C_6haloalkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, mercapto, amino, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_3-C_6alkenylthio, C_3-C_6haloalkenylthio, C_3-C_6alkynylthio, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, cyano-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_2alkylaminosulfonyl, N,N-di(C_1-C_2alkyl)aminosulfonyl, di(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino, halogen, cyano, nitro or by phenyl, it being possible for the phenyl group to be in turn substituted by hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_3-C_6alkenylthio, C_3-C_6haloalkenylthio, C_3-C_6alkynylthio, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, cyano-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_2alkylaminosulfonyl, N,N-di(C_1-C_2alkyl)aminosulfonyl, di(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino, halogen, cyano or by nitro, and the substituents on nitrogen in a heterocyclic ring being other than halogen;

R_5 is hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_6cycloalkyloxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy or C_1-C_2alkylsulfonyloxy;

R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9, R_{10} R_{11}, R_{12}, R_{17}, R_{18} and R_{18b} are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkyl substituted by C_1-C_6alkoxy, benzyl, or phenyl, it

being possible for phenyl and benzyl to be in turn substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy or by nitro; R_6 not being hydrogen when R_9 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl or C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl;

or the group -R_1-X_1-R_2 together is C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_2-C_6haloalkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylamino, di(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, C_1-C_6alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminosulfonyl, -NH-S-R_{13}, -N-(C_1-C_4alkylthio)-R_{13}, -NH-SO-R_{14}, -N-(C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyl)-R_{14}, -NH-SO_2-R_{15}, -N-(C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyl)-R_{15}, nitro, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, formyl, rhodano-C_1-C_6alkyl, cyano-C_1-C_6alkyl, oxiranyl, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, cyano-C_1-C_6alkenyloxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyloxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, cyano-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyloxy, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyloxy, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl, phenylsulfonyl, benzylthio, benzylsulfinyl or benzylsulfonyl, it being possible for the phenyl groups to be substituted one or more times by halogen, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy or by nitro;

or the group -R_1-X_1-R_2 together is a three- to ten-membered, monocyclic or fused bicyclic, ring system, which may be aromatic, partially saturated or saturated and which may contain from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur and/or may contain one or two groups selected from -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, -C(=NR_{20})-, -(N=O)-, -S(=O)- and -SO_2-, the ring system either being attached to the pyridine ring directly *via* a carbon atom or being attached to the pyridine ring *via* a carbon atom or *via* a nitrogen atom by way of a C_1-C_4alkylene, C_2-C_4alkenyl or C_2-C_4alkynyl chain, and it being possible for each ring system to contain no more than 2 oxygen atoms and no more than two sulfur atoms, and it being possible for the ring system itself to be substituted one, two or three times by substituents selected from C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl, C_3-C_6haloalkenyl, C_3-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6haloalkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, mercapto, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_3-C_6alkenylthio, C_3-C_6haloalkenylthio, C_3-C_6alkynylthio, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_3alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, cyano-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl,

aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_2alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_3alkylene-R_{16}, amino, C_1-C_6alkylamino, C_1-C_6alkoxyamino, di(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, (N-C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkoxyamino, halogen, cyano, nitro, phenyl, benzyloxy and benzylthio, it being possible for phenyl, benzyloxy and benzylthio to be in turn substituted on the phenyl ring by C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro, and substituents on a nitrogen atom in a heterocyclic ring being other than halogen;

R_{13} is N(H)-C_1-C_6alkyl, N(H)-C_1-C_6alkoxy, N-(C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkyl, N-(C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl, C_3-C_6haloalkenyl, C_3-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6haloalkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl or phenyl, it being possible for phenyl to be in turn substituted by C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro;

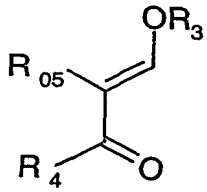
R_{14} is N(H)-C_1-C_6alkyl, N(H)-C_1-C_6alkoxy, N-(C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkyl, N-(C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl, C_3-C_6haloalkenyl, C_3-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6haloalkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl or phenyl, it being possible for phenyl to be in turn substituted by C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro;

R_{15} is N(H)-C_1-C_6alkyl, N(H)-C_1-C_6alkoxy, N-(C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkyl, N-(C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl, C_3-C_6haloalkenyl, C_3-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6haloalkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl or phenyl, it being possible for phenyl to be in turn substituted by C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro;

R_{16} is C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_2-C_4alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_3alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_3alkylsulfonyl or phenyl, it being possible for phenyl to be in turn substituted by C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro; and

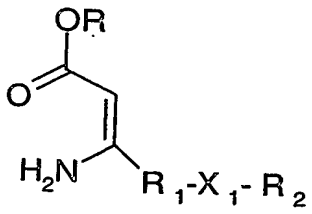
R_{19} and R_{20} are each independently of the other hydrogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, cyano, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl or C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl; which process comprises reacting

a compound of formula II



(II),

wherein R_3 is C_1-C_8alkyl or C_3-C_6cycloalkyl and R_4 and R_{05} are as defined for formula I, with a compound of formula III



(III),

wherein R, R_1, R_2 and X_1 are as defined for formula I, in an inert solvent in the presence of a proton source.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein there is prepared a compound of formula I wherein

R_4 is halomethyl or haloethyl;

R_{05} is hydrogen;

X_1 is oxygen, -O(CO)-, -(CO)O-, -O(CO)O-, -N(R_6)-O-, -O-NR_{17}-, thio, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, -SO_2NR_7-, -$NR_{18}SO_2$- or -NR_8-;

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl, or a C_1-C_8alkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl or C_3-C_6alkynyl group which is substituted one or more times by halogen, hydroxy, amino, formyl, nitro, cyano, mercapto, carbamoyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, C_2-C_6haloalkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, halo-substituted C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, or by C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6haloalkenyloxy, cyano-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkyl-thio-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkylsulfonyl, oxiranyl (which may in turn be substituted by C_1-C_6alkyl), or by (3-oxetanyl)oxy (which may in turn be substituted by C_1-C_6alkyl), or by benzylthio, benzylsulfinyl, benzylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6alkylamino, di(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, $R_9S(O)_2O$-, $R_{10}N(R_{11})SO_2$-, rhodano, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl or by phenylsulfonyl; it being possible for the phenyl- or benzyl-containing groups to be in turn substituted by one or more C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy or nitro groups, or

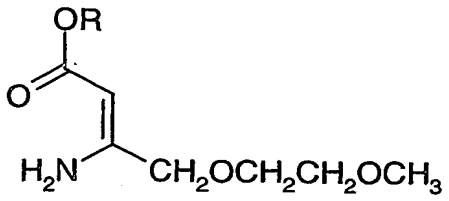
R_2 is phenyl which may be substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy or by nitro; or

R_2 is C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy- or C_1-C_6alkyl-substituted C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, 3-oxetanyl or C_1-C_6alkyl-substituted 3-oxetanyl;
or R_2 is a five- to ten-membered, monocyclic or fused bicyclic, ring system which may be aromatic, partially saturated or fully saturated and may contain from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur, and/or may contain the group -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, -C(=NR_{19})-, -(N=O)-, -S(=O)- or -SO_2-, the ring system being attached to the substituent X_1 directly or by way of a C_1-C_4alkylene, C_2-C_4alkenyl-C_1-C_4alkylene, C_2-C_4alkynyl-C_1-C_4alkylene, -N(R_{12})-C_1-C_4alkylene, -SO-C_1-C_4alkylene or -SO_2-C_1-C_4alkylene group and each ring system containing no more than 2 oxygen atoms and no more than two sulfur atoms, and it being possible for each ring system itself to be substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_2-C_6haloalkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, mercapto, amino, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_3-C_6alkenylthio, C_3-C_6haloalkenylthio, C_3-C_6alkynylthio, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, cyano-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_2alkylaminosulfonyl, N,N-di(C_1-C_2alkyl)aminosulfonyl, di(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino, halogen, cyano, nitro or by phenyl, it being possible for the phenyl group to be in turn substituted by hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_3-C_6alkenylthio, C_3-C_6haloalkenylthio, C_3-C_6alkynylthio, C_1-C_3alkoxy-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4alkylcarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_3alkylthio, cyano-C_1-C_3alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_2alkylaminosulfonyl, N,N-di(C_1-C_2alkyl)aminosulfonyl, di(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino, halogen, cyano or by nitro, and the substituents on nitrogen in a heterocyclic ring being other than halogen;
R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9, R_{10} R_{11}, R_{12}, R_{17} and R_{18} are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkyl substituted by C_1-C_6alkoxy, benzyl, or phenyl, it being possible for phenyl and benzyl to be in turn substituted one or more times by C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano, hydroxy or by nitro; R_6 not being hydrogen when R_9 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl or C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl;
or the group -R_1-X_1-R_2 together is C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6haloalkenyl, C_2-C_6-alkynyl, C_2-C_6haloalkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6haloalkyl-sulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylamino,

di(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, C_1-C_6alkylaminosulfonyl, di(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminosulfonyl, -NH-S-R_{13}, -N-(C_1-C_4alkylthio)-R_{13}, -NH-SO-R_{14}, -N-(C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyl)-R_{14}, -NH-SO_2-R_{15}, -N-(C_1-C_4alkylsulfonyl)-R_{15}, nitro, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, amino, formyl, rhodano-C_1-C_6alkyl, cyano-C_1-C_6alkyl, oxiranyl, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, cyano-C_1-C_6alkenyloxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyloxy-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, cyano-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio-C_1-C_6alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkylthio, alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkylsulfinyl, alkoxycarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyloxy, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyloxy, phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, phenylthio, phenylsulfinyl, phenylsulfonyl, benzylthio, benzylsulfinyl or benzylsulfonyl, it being possible for the phenyl groups to be substituted one or more times by halogen, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy or by nitro;
or the group -R_1-X_1-R_2 together is a five- to ten-membered, monocyclic or fused bicyclic, ring system, which may be aromatic or partially saturated and which may contain from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, the ring system either being directly attached to the pyridine ring or being attached to the pyridine ring by way of a C_1-C_4alkylene group, and it being possible for each ring system to contain no more than 2 oxygen atoms and no more than two sulfur atoms, and/or to contain the group -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, -C(=NR_{20})-, -(N=O)-, -S(=O)- or -SO_2-;
and the ring system itself may be substituted one, two or three times by C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_3-C_6alkenyl, C_3-C_6haloalkenyl, C_3-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6haloalkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_3-C_6alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6alkynyloxy, mercapto, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_1-C_6-haloalkylthio, C_3-C_6alkenylthio, C_3-C_6haloalkenylthio, C_3-C_6alkynylthio, C_2-C_5alkoxyalkyl-thio, C_3-C_5acetylalkylthio, C_3-C_6alkoxycarbonylalkylthio, C_2-C_4cyanoalkylthio, C_1-C_6alkyl-sulfinyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_6haloalkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_2alkylaminosulfonyl, C_2-C_4dialkylaminosulfonyl, C_1-C_3alkylene-R_{16}, N(H)-C_1-C_6alkyl, N(H)-C_1-C_6alkoxy, N-(C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkyl, N-(C_1-C_6alkyl)-C_1-C_6alkoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, phenyl and by benzylthio, it being possible for phenyl and benzylthio to be in turn substituted on the phenyl ring by C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3haloalkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3haloalkoxy, halogen, cyano or by nitro, and substituents on nitrogen in a heterocyclic ring being other than halogen; and

R_{19} and R_{20} are each independently of the other hydrogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkoxycarbonyl or C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl.

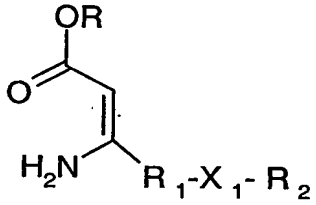
3. A compound of formula IIIa



(IIIa)

wherein R is as defined for formula I in claim 1.

4. Use of a compound of formula III



(III),

wherein R, R_1, R_2 and X_1 are as defined for formula I in claim 1, in the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1.